

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/3/2010 has been entered.

Examiner's Remark

Applicant's amendment, filed on 5/3/2010, has been received and entered into the file. The objection to specification, the 101 rejection and 103 rejections have been overcome in view of applicant's amendments/remarks and the following examiner's amendment and are hereby withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 12, 14-15, 17-20 and 22 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with on Kurt Rohlfs 5/12/2010.

The examiner has amended the following:

canceling claim 6;

claims 1, 12, and 20, in the preamble of the claims, delete [said image stored on a computer-readable medium and operatively connected to a processor];

claims 1, 12, and 20, delete all occurrences of [said processor];

claims 1, 12 and 20, at the end of the claims, replace [.] with -;- and add a paragraph – wherein the above method steps are performed by a computer.–

claim 12, replace [having a value of 0.15] with – wherein the value for said second threshold is 0.15 –

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5, 12, 14-15, 17-20 and 22 are allowed. A statement of reasons that the claims are allowable is presented in the previous office actions dated Oct. 23, 2007 and 1/12/2009 and will not be repeated here.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YUZHEN GE whose telephone number is (571)272-7636. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yuzhen Ge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624